

March 29, 1979

LB 101A

CLERK: (Read title to LB 101A.)

PRESIDENT: Now the Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz and now you may go into that.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. I will try to answer Senator Hefner's question. I have here, Services for the Deaf Citizens through Title 20. It says here, in spite of the enormous social services needs of the deaf communities throughout the United States, approximately \$256,000,000 of federal social service funds will go unused this year because of a controversial complicated Title 20 program that favors well informed, well organized, politically sophisticated service consumer groups, and I did before list the organizations through the federal government that we can apply for funds but we cannot do so now. There is an organization called AID. Right now they are in operation in Omaha and Lincoln but their CETA funds end this fall and they will have no money to continue their programs. I am sure that after this organization has been established for a year or this commission, that they will be able to apply for further funds through the federal government. They started out with a budget of \$250,000. I finally got that cut down to \$210,000 but we must understand that the interpreters' services and the counselling of the deaf is what is going to cost so much money. Per hour it is a very very high amount of money that they would have and without money the commission would be worthless so this first year we are asking for \$210,000. That will include office, equipment, rent, counselling, interpreting service and everything included. I, myself, don't think that is too much money. We had it at \$250,000. Being the fiscal conservative that I am, I tried to reduce that as much as I could. I have talked to the people that are involved with the commission and as low as we could possibly go this first year is \$210,000 and this is a starting up program. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Labeledz another question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz, will you respond?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: I am concerned about the \$210,000 and I